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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,459	10/30/2003	Matthew R. Hackworth	68.0234DIV	7986

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON, KENNETH L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3672

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,459

Applicant(s)

HACKWORTH ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth Thompson

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-9, 16-20, 32-34 and 41-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-9, 16, 17, 32-34 and 41-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rabe, U.S. 3,253,842.

Regarding claims 1-4, Rabe discloses all the claimed subject matter including the receiving (28,26) and insertion (22,20) extensions, the broad head (22); the receiving extensions (28,26) having a narrow outer portion (28) and wider inner portion (26) and the extensions being interlocked via slide or sleeve (40).

As to claims 7-9, Rabe discloses all the claimed subject matter including a sand barrier (40) positioned over the length of or parallel to the tubes (10,12).

Regarding claims 32 and 33, Rabe discloses all the claimed subject matter including the first and second tubulars (12,10) and an internal sand barrier (40)

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Campbell, U.S. 5,924,745.

Regarding claims 16 and 17, Campbell discloses all the claimed subject matter including the connector portions (40,41) separated by gaps (between fingers 40 and 41) having ridges (32,33) configured to interlock upon relative rotation of the tubulars (22,24; col. 4, lines 3-14)

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Claims 32, 33 and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Huber et al., U.S. 6,059,042.

Regarding claim 32 and 33, Huber et al. discloses all the claimed subject matter including a first and second tubular (10a, 10b) a connector system (figs 2a, 2b) and an external sand barrier (10b).

Regarding claims 41-43 Huber et al. discloses all the claimed limitations including a slide cover (10b) engaging the tubulars and plurality of interlocking extensions (10a1, 10c1; col. 10, lines 30-56).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 18 January 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues the prior art of Rabe does not disclose the insertion extensions being axially inserted into the receiving extensions and automatically interlocked.

The prior art discloses in column 2, lines 24-32 the insertion extensions being axially inserted into the receiving extensions and automatically interlocked with joint 14. The claims do not require specific limitations supporting automation of the interlocking.

Applicant argues the prior art of Rabe does not disclose a sand barrier.

Cylindrical ring 40 and O-rings 42 seal the interior of the tubulars.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including a sleeve disposed around at least one of the connectors.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including a sand barrier positioned along the connector portions.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest all the claimed subject matter including a slide cover sized to slide over the connector portions.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenn Thompson whose telephone number is 703 306-5760. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J Bagnell can be reached on 703 308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

15 April 2005
KT